

Atty. Docket No. YOR920010072US1
(590.044)

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated July 28, 2004, pending Claims 1-25 were rejected and the rejection made final. In response Applicant has filed herewith a Request for Continued Examination and have amended Claims 1, 13 and 25. Applicant intends no change in the scope of the claims by the changes made by this amendment. It should be noted these amendments are not in acquiescence of the Office's position on allowability of the claims, but merely to expedite prosecution.

Applicant and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner. On October 7, 2004, Applicant's counsel and the Applicant, Ellen Eide, conducted a telephone interview with the Examiner in which the present application, the Nouza reference, and the Eide et al. reference were discussed. No agreement, however, was reached with respect to the claims of the present application.

The Office is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections presented in the outstanding Office Action in light of the following remarks. Claims 1 - 25 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding Office Action. Of these claims, Claims 1, 13, and 25 are independent claims; the remaining claims are dependent claims. All claims stand rejected 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Nouza in view of Eide et al. (hereafter "Eide"). The Action takes the position that Nouza recites "[b]uilding a model for each of a pre-selected number N of the ranked features". (Page 3) Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejections are hereby respectfully requested.

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As presently amended, Claims 1 and 25 recite **rebuilding the model** for each of a preselected number N of the ranked linguistic features. (emphasis added) Similar language appears in Claim 13. As set forth in the specification, "at 105, models are rebuilt for those N features in a manner such as that described herebelow in connection with Figure 2. The models from 101 and 105 differ in the second stage of the build where the input features are 26-dimensional (13 original +13 discriminative) and 17-dimensional (13 original + 4 discriminative.)" (Page 9, lines 14-17) As discussed in connection with Figure 2, feature generation in the present invention is an iterative process, which is simply not taught or suggested by the applied references.

The "prior art made of record" has been reviewed. Applicant acknowledges that such prior art was not deemed by the Office to be sufficiently relevant as to have been applied against the claims of the instant application. To the extent that the Office may apply such prior art against the claims in the future, Applicant will be fully prepared to respond thereto.

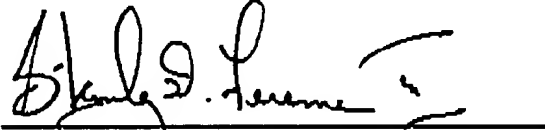
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 13, and 25 fully distinguish over the applied art and are thus allowable. By virtue of dependence from what is believed to be allowable independent Claims 1, 13, and 25, is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-12 and 14-24 are also presently allowable.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, including Claims 1-25, is in condition for allowance. Notice to the effect is hereby earnestly

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solicited. If there are any further issues in this application, the Examiner is invited to
contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stanley D. Ference III", is written over a horizontal line.

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